

Dental Assisting

Associate of Applied Science Degree

Program Overview:

This program is designed to provide a career ladder for individuals who have graduated from or who are currently enrolled in an American Dental Association accredited dental assisting certificate program and seek to obtain an Associate of Applied Science degree. The program is designed to broaden the student's education through the addition of a broad general education core and additional electives. Graduates are prepared to become registered as dental assistants (RDA) in Tennessee with certification in Dental Radiology, Sealants, Coronal Polishing and Monitoring Nitrous Oxide. Graduates are also eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board to become a certified Dental Assistant (CDA).

How Much Can I Earn?

Tennessee Annual Salary Range *\$19,620 - \$35,100

*Wages and salary data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Tennessee Department of Labor

Visit these websites to learn more!

http://www.chattanoogastate.edu/allied_health/dental_assisting/

http://dentalassistant.org/adaa_multimedia.htm

What Will I Do On The Job?

Dental assistants are trained to assist the dentist or the dental hygienist in providing comprehensive dental health services to the public. Dental Assisting duties include taking dental x-rays, making molds of the patient's teeth, assisting chairside with a variety of dental procedures including braces and surgery, sterilizing instruments, applying topical fluoride and dental sealants, and performing business office procedures.

What Skills Will I Use On The Job?

Dental Assistants must have good manual dexterity and be able to put people at ease with good communication skills. They must be flexible and willing to learn new techniques in a rapidly changing field. Dental assistants must be able to follow directions, have excellent organizational skills, and possess basic computer skills.

Possible Job Titles:

Business Office Manager, Clinical Manager/Coordinator, OSHA Compliance Coordinator, Claims Supervisor in dental insurance companies, Instructor, Sales or product representative

Who Will Hire Me?

General dentists; dental specialists including Orthodontists, Oral Surgeons, Pediatric Dentists, Periodontists, Prosthodontists, and Endodontists; health departments; special needs centers; dental claims departments of insurance companies; dental supply houses; dental product manufacturers. Chattanooga State graduates work with such organizations as: general and specialty dental offices in Tennessee and other states; Erlanger Medical Center; the Veteran's Administration; dental insurance companies; educational institutions.

Need More Information?

www.bls.gov ▪ tcids.tbr.edu/index.html

Career Services & Counseling Center

Student Center Room 137 ▪ 423-697-4421